

V. REMARKS

The specification is objected to because of informalities. The specification is amended as suggested by the Examiner to obviate the objection. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

The Office Action asserts that the title of the invention is not descriptive. The title is changed as indicated above that now is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

Claims 1, 7 and 8 are objected to because of an informality. Claims 1 and 7 amended in a manner believed to obviate the objection. Claim 8 is canceled and therefore the rejection as applied thereto is now moot. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 3, 5, 6 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Nakamura (U.S. Patent No. 6,468,162). Claims 7 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Muroi (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0052238). Claim 4 is rejected under 35 USC 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Nakamura in view of Buckley (U.S. Patent No. 5,036,472). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

In the present invention, a new character card is determined by combining a plurality of original characters, when prescribed conditions are satisfied in the game and the combining instruction is provided, as described on pages 16 to 17, and in Figs. 5 to 7.

Therefore, the game player feels a sense of attachment to the newly introduced character and become absorbed into the game.

In addition, the player can acquire a new character which is different from the purchased character or acquired character by winning a battle through the game.

Therefore, a desire for collecting trading cards is further increased, and the player is further absorbed into the game.

Nakamura (US. Patent No. 6,468,162) and Muroi (US. Patent Application, First Publication No. 2002/0052238) do not specifically disclose the above-mentioned features.

In the column 11 of Nakamura, it is disclosed that the results of the game are used to vary the character information. The results of game seem to be merely the number of games played. Furthermore, the game of Nakamura is an accessory game which is played while waiting for the character data to download and write.

In Muroi, the attributes (physical power, intellectual power, fighting power and defensive strength) of the characters are varied, through the moving operation or the fighting condition, as described in the paragraph 32 thereof. The variation of the characters in Muroi is different from the combination of a plurality of characters in the present invention.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 7, 9 and 10 are patentable over the above cited references. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims 3, 5, 6 and 10 are allowable as well.

Claims 2 and 8 are canceled and, as a result, the rejection as applied thereto is now moot.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Newly-added claims 9-11 also include features not shown in the applied art.

Further, Applicants assert that there are also reasons other than those set forth above why the pending claims are patentable. Applicants hereby reserve the right to submit those other reasons and to argue for the patentability of claims not explicitly addressed herein in future papers.

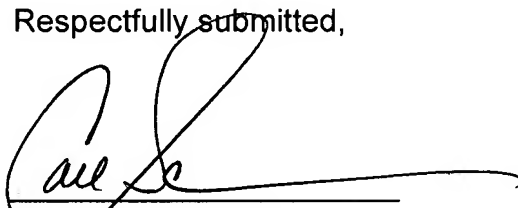
In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper or if a Petition for Extension of Time is required for timely acceptance of the same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 18-0013 for any such fees and Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extension of time.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure(s): Amendment Transmittal
Request for Continued Examination
Fee Transmittal

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